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CLAIMS

1.   A method of retrieving from a remote source customized video data, the method comprising:

5   (a)   specifying a particular video data file and requesting an image of video data and information concerning the video data;

      (b)   retrieving from the source the image of the video data and the information concerning the video data;

10   (c)   specifying parameters determining at least one of the desired spatial, temporal and format characteristics of the customized video data and sending the parameters to the source; and

      (d)   receiving video data transmitted by the source after

15   customization on the basis of the specified parameters.

2.   A device for retrieving customized video data from a remote source, the device including:

      (a)   means for specifying a particular video data file and

20   requesting an image of video data and information concerning the video data;

      (b)   means for receiving from the remote source the image of the video data and the information concerning the video data;

25   (c)   means for transmitting parameters determining at least one of the desired spatial, temporal and format characteristics of the video data and for requesting customization of the video data on the basis of the specified customization parameters; and

30   (d)   means for retrieving video data supplied from the source after customization on the basis of the specified customization parameters.

3.   A video data source for remote access, the source:

      (a)   being responsive to a remote user's selection of a

35   particular video data file to prepare an image of

video data and information concerning the video data,

(b)   transmitting to the user the image of the video data
        and the information concerning the video data,

(c)   being responsive to parameters determining at least
5   one of the desired spatial, temporal and format
        characteristics of the video data received from the
        remote user, and

(d)   transmitting to the user video data from the original
        video data file after customization on the basis of
10   the received parameters.

4.   A method, device or source according to claims 1, 2 or 3
wherein the parameters determine at least two of the desired
spatial, temporal and format characteristics.

5.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
15 claim wherein the parameters determine all of the spatial,
temporal and format characteristics.

6.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
claims wherein the video data is retrieved over a network or
the Internet.

20 7.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
claim wherein the source comprises a network server or an
Internet server.

8.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
claim wherein the remote user is a computer terminal.

25 9.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
claim wherein the source transmits to the remote user a control
program to enable the remote user to specify parameters
determining the desired spatial, temporal and format
characteristics of the video data.

30 10. A method, device or source according to claim 9 wherein
the control program is written in Java.

11.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
claim wherein parameters determining one or both of auditory
and visual characteristics are specified, transmitted or
35 received.

Subst 12.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
         claim wherein the source is usable by several remote users
         concurrently.

Subst 13.   A method, device or source according to any preceding
     5   claim whereby the user may specify parameters for the required
         video customisation, these parameters determining one or more
         of the following video characteristics: the temporal extent of
         the original video data to be included in the customized video
         data, the spatial extent of the original video data to be
    10   included in the customized video data, the extent to which the
         original video data should be magnified or demagnified, the
         time lapse ratio between the original video data and the
         customized video data, the soundtracks accompanying the
         customized video data, the visual appearance of the customized
    15   video data as determined by the application of selected image
         processing procedures, and the nature of the encoding of the
         customized video data, namely the video format, the video
         frame rate, the compression/decompression algorithm (codec) and
         the compression quality setting applied to the customized video
    20   data before downloading to the user.